

II. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 13 are independent.

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Sukhaphadhana for the cordial and productive telephone discussion of March 18, 2004. The Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions were instrumental in preparing this Preliminary Amendment.

As the Examiner kindly pointed out during the above-reference telephone conference the Remarks portion of the October 28, 2003 Amendment argued that a fundamental distinction between the present invention and the cited art is that, in the present invention, "only the specific image data from fan and axially acquired two-dimensional image slices are actually required to view the user-selected image undergoes reconstruction". By only transforming specific image data that is required, (that is, the data representing the edge of the target tissue and not all image data from fan and axially acquired two-dimensional slices), the resources required to generate accurate and high-resolution three-dimensional images of the target volume is reduced."

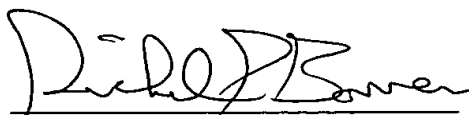
It is clear that this approach is different than that disclosed by Quistgaard, wherein all image data is used to present a three-dimensional view through the overlapping of the two-dimensional images at an offset.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to clarify this feature of the present invention. See also page 2, line 18 through page 3, line 10; page 8, lines 12-14; and page 13, lines 15-28 of the specification. It is, therefore, submitted that Claims 1 and 13 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art of record, and are, therefore, allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

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